

Please amend claim 2 as follows:

2. (Amended) A [gene] nucleic acid encoding [the protein according to claim 1] a C-11 protein selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a protein comprising the amino acids as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 and
(b) a protein derived from the protein of (a) comprising deletion, substitution or insertion of at least one amino acid, wherein said protein has cell-calcification inhibitory activity and increases DNA synthesizing ability of cells.

Please add the following new claims:

20. A nucleic acid encoding a protein ~~derived from the amino acids as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4 comprising deletion, substitution or insertion of at least one amino acid, wherein said encoded protein has cell calcification inhibitory activity and increases the ability of cells to synthesize DNA.~~

21. The nucleic acid of claim 2, ~~wherein said nucleic acid encodes a protein comprising the amino acids as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.~~

22. A nucleic acid which is complementary to the nucleic acid of claim 2 selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide primer for amplifying a nucleic acid encoding a protein comprising the amino acids as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2;
(b) a nucleotide primer for amplifying a nucleic acid encoding a protein comprising amino acids derived from SEQ ID NO:4 comprising deletion,

substitution or insertion of at least one amino acid of said sequence, wherein said derived protein increases DNA synthesizing ability of cells; and
(c) a nucleotide probe against a nucleic acid encoding a protein having cell calcification inhibitory activity,
wherein said complementary nucleic acids (a), (b), and (c) comprise the complement of nucleotides 645 to 662 as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

23. The nucleic acid of claim 22, wherein said probe is labeled.

24. The nucleic acid of claim 23, wherein said label is selected from the group consisting of isotopic and non-isotopic labels.

25. A nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.

26. A vector incorporating the nucleic acid of any one of claims 2, 20-22 and 25.

27. The vector of claim 26, wherein said vector is an expression vector.

28. A host cell comprising the vector of claim 26.

29. A host cell comprising the vector of claim 27.

30. The host cell of claim 29, wherein said host cell is selected from the group consisting of eukaryotic cells and prokaryotic cells.